

Appl. No. 10/734,006
Amdt. dated December 27, 2007
Reply to Office Action of July 27, 2007

Recitation of the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A biodegradable nonwoven web prepared from a polymer blend comprising from about 65% by weight to about 99% by weight of a biodegradable aliphatic polyester polymer and from about 1% by weight to about 35% by weight of a second polymer which is amorphous and is selected from the group consisting of a polymer having a lower melting point than the aliphatic polyester polymer, a polymer having a lower molecular weight than the aliphatic polyester polymer and mixtures thereof and wherein the second polymer comprises a polyalphaolefin.
2. (Previously Presented) The biodegradable nonwoven web of claim 1, wherein the aliphatic polyester comprises at least one polymer selected from polyhydroxy butyrate (PHP), polyhydroxy butyrate-co-valerate (PHBV), polycaprolactane, polybutylene succinate, polybutylene succinate-co-adipate, polyglycolic acid (PGA), polylactide or polylactic acid (PLA), polybutylene oxalate, polyethylene adipate, polyparadioxanone, polymorpholineviones, or polydioxipane-2-one.
3. (Original) The biodegradable nonwoven web of claim 2, wherein the aliphatic polyester comprises a polylactide.
4. (Original) The biodegradable nonwoven web of claim 3, wherein the polylactide comprises a poly(L-lactide) having a D-isomer, if present, in an amount less than 3%.
5. (Original) The biodegradable nonwoven web of claim 4 wherein the polylactide comprises a poly(L-lactide) having a D-isomer, if present, in an amount less than 2%.
6. (Canceled)

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7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The biodegradable nonwoven web of claim 1, wherein the nonwoven web is a meltblown nonwoven web, a spunbond nonwoven web, a bonded carded web or an airlaid nonwoven web.

11. (Original) The biodegradable nonwoven web of claim 10, wherein the nonwoven web is a spunbond nonwoven web.

12. (Original) The biodegradable nonwoven web of claim 1, wherein the nonwoven web comprises multicomponent fibers, wherein at least a portion of an outer surface of the multicomponent fibers comprises the polymer blend.

13. (Currently Amended) The biodegradable nonwoven web of claim 1, wherein the nonwoven web is a spunbond nonwoven web, the biodegradable polymer comprises a polylactide having a D-lactide isomer content less than about 3% by weight, based on the weight of the polylactide, the ~~second polymer comprises a polyalphaolefin, and~~ the blend comprises from about 85 -98 % by weight of the polylactide and from about 2-15 % by weight of the ~~polyalphaolefin second polymer~~.

14. (Currently Amended) The biodegradable nonwoven web of claim 1, wherein the nonwoven web is a spunbond nonwoven web, the biodegradable polymer comprises a polylactide having less than about 3% by weight of a D-lactide isomer, ~~the second polymer comprises a polylactide having a D-lactide isomer content in the range of about 3-9% by weight, based on the weight of the polylactide, and~~ the blend comprises from about 65-75 % by weight of the polylactide and from about 25-35 % by weight of the ~~polyalphaolefin second polymer~~.

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15. (Original) A personal care product comprising the nonwoven web of claim 1 as a component of the product.

16. (Original) The personal care product of claim 15, wherein the personal care product is a diaper.

17. (Original) The personal care product of claim 15, wherein the personal care product is a feminine hygiene pad.

18. (Original) The personal care product of claim 15, wherein the personal care product is a training pant.

19. (Original) A medical garment comprising the nonwoven web of claim 1.

20. (Original) The medical garment of claim 19, wherein the medical garment is a gown.

21. (Original) The medical garment of claim 19, wherein the medical garment is a face mask

22. (Original) A sterile wrap comprising the nonwoven web of claim 1.

23. (Original) A wiper comprising the nonwoven web of claim 1.

24. (Original) A filter comprising the nonwoven web of claim 1.

25. (Currently Amended) A method of increasing the tear strength of a biodegradable nonwoven web prepared from a biodegradable aliphatic polyester polymer, said method comprising the steps of forming a blend of a biodegradable aliphatic polyester polymer and a polymer which is amorphous and is selected from the group consisting of a polymer having a lower melting point than the biodegradable aliphatic polyester polymer, a polymer having a lower molecular weight

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than the biodegradable aliphatic polyester polymer and mixtures thereof and wherein the second polymer comprises a polyalphaolefin with the biodegradable aliphatic polyester polymer, forming a nonwoven web from the blend; and bonding the nonwoven web.

26. (Currently Amended) A fiber from a polymer blend comprising from about 65% by weight to about 99% by weight of a biodegradable aliphatic polyester polymer and from about 1% by weight to about 35% by weight of a second polymer which is amorphous and is selected from the group consisting of a polymer having a lower melting point than the aliphatic polyester polymer, a polymer having a lower molecular weight than the aliphatic polyester polymer and mixtures thereof and wherein the second polymer comprises a polyalphaolefin.

27. (Original) The fiber of claim 26, wherein the fibers is a staple fiber.

28. (Original) The fiber of claim 26, wherein the fiber is a substantially continuous filament.